

# AMERICAN ARCHIVES:

## *Fifth Series.*

CONTAINING

A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

OF

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

FROM THE

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, JULY 4, 1776,

TO THE

DEFINITIVE TREATY OF PEACE WITH GREAT BRITAIN, SEPTEMBER 3, 1783.

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BY PETER FORCE.

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VOLUME I.

PUBLISHED BY M. ST. CLAIR CLARKE AND PETER FORCE,

UNDER AUTHORITY OF ACTS OF CONGRESS, PASSED ON THE SECOND DAY OF MARCH, 1833,  
AND ON THE THIRD DAY OF MARCH, 1843.

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WASHINGTON, APRIL, 1848.

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with keeping up a communication with their ships; whereas ours is connected, and can act together. They must effect a landing under so many disadvantages, that if officers and soldiers are vigilant, and alert to prevent surprise, and add spirit when they approach, there is no doubt of our success.

*Ebenezer Gray* is appointed Brigade-Major to General *Parsons*.

The following disposition is made of the several Regiments, so as to form Brigades under the commanding officers respectively mentioned:

|                             |  |                               |   |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Gen. <i>Parsons</i> .....   | Huntington,<br>Prescott,<br>Ward,<br>Durkee,<br>Tyler.       | Gen. <i>Heard</i> .....       | Cortlandt,<br>Johnson,<br>Newcomb,<br>Freeman,<br>Martin.                     |
| Gen. <i>McDougall</i> ..... | McDougall,<br>Ritzema,<br>Snellwood,<br>Webb,<br>Artificers. | Gen. <i>Fellows</i> .....     | Holman,<br>Cary,<br>Smith,<br>Silliman,<br>Thompson,                          |
| Gen. <i>Scott</i> .....     | Lasher,<br>Malcolm,<br>Drake,<br>Humphrey.                   | Com'dr. <i>Silliman</i> ..... | Lewis,<br>Mead,<br>Hinnman.   |
| Gen. <i>Wadsworth</i> ..... | Chapman,<br>Sage,<br>Selden,<br>Gay,<br>Bradley.             | Com'dr. <i>Sergeant</i> ..... | Sergeant,<br>Sheldon,<br>Talcot.  |
| Gen. <i>Nixon</i> .....     | Varum,<br>Little,<br>Hitchcock,<br>Nixon,<br>Bailey.         | Com'dr. <i>Douglass</i> ..... | Douglass,<br>Petibone,<br>Cook,   |
| Gen. <i>Clinton</i> .....   | Read,<br>Glover,<br>Baldwin,<br>Learned.                     | Com'dr. <i>Chester</i> .....  | Talcot,<br>Chapman,<br>Chester,<br>Pitkin,<br>Baldwin,<br>Strong,<br>Newbury. |

They are to choose out capable, active, and spirited persons to act as Brigade-Majors, who will be allowed for their service.

The General hopes the several officers, both superior and inferior, will now exert themselves, and gloriously determine to conquer or die. From the justice of our cause, the situation of the harbour, and the bravery of her sons, *America* can only expect success. Now is the time for every man to exert himself, and make our country glorious, or it will become contemptible.

Commanding Officers of Regiments are to take care to have hard bread and pork for two days kept by them constantly. The neglect of former orders in this respect has occasioned some of the hardships the troops have lately sustained. If there is any delay at the Commissary's, good officers will compose and quiet their men, and mention it by way of letter to the General.

#### EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK, DATED AUGUST 31, 1776.

You are no doubt surprised to hear of our sudden retreat from *Long-Island*, but it was thought absolutely essential from our situation. We were under a necessity of marching out and attacking them upon their own ground, or suffering ourselves to have been starved into a surrender: first, because they were trenching within five hundred yards of our lines, which were very weak, and incapable of withstanding their heavy cannon, and our men, from their situation, began to grow very uneasy; and, secondly, because their shipping might have run up the *East River*, and cut off our resources of provision and every other necessary. The retreat was conducted with the greatest secrecy, and by six o'clock in the morning we had everything embarked. There never was a man that behaved better upon the occasion than General *Washington*; he was on horseback the whole night, and never left the ferry stairs till he had seen the whole of his troops embarked.

#### EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK, DATED AUGUST 31, 1776.

General *Sullivan* came here yesterday upon his parole, and informs us that Lord *Sirling*, himself, Colonels *Miles* and *Atlee*, were all taken by the enemy. Immediately after the engagement, the enemy began to throw up works within musket-shot of *Fort Putnam*; and as we had no heavy cannon to prevent them, we were obliged, the night before last, to retreat, and leave the Island. In retreating, we have not lost ten men at most.

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#### EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK, DATED AUGUST 31, 1776.

Captain *Veazey*, Ensign *Fernandez*, Sergeant *Sands*, killed. Captain *Bowie*, Lieutenants *Butler*, *Sierret*, *Ridgely*, *Dent*, Ensign *Couts*, missing. Mr. *Coursey* taken prisoner.

Adjutant *Brice* was taken prisoner by two officers of Light-Horse, and was delivered to a private, who told him he was his prisoner, which *Brice* denied, and immediately shot him and got clear.

#### List of the Names of such Officers of the three PENNSYLVANIA Battalions as are Prisoners and Missing the 27th of August, after the Battle on LONG-ISLAND.

##### First Battalion of Rifle Regiment.

|   | Serg. | Drum. | Priv. |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Samuel Miles, Esq., Colonel Commandant, prisoner. |       |       |       |
| James Piper, Esq., Lieut. Colonel, prisoner.      |       |       |       |
| Capt. Richard Brown.....pris.                     |       |       |       |
| 1st Lieut. William Gray.....do.                   |       |       |       |
| 1st Lieut. John Spear.....do.                     |       |       |       |
| 1st Lieut. John Davis.....do.                     |       |       |       |
| 1st Lieut. George West.....do.                    |       |       |       |
| 3d Lieut. Joseph Triesbach.....do.                |       |       |       |
| 3d Lieut. Wm. McPherson.....do.                   |       |       |       |
| 2d Lt. Joseph Jacquet.....missing.                |       |       |       |
| 3d Lt. Luke Broadhead.....pris.                   |       |       |       |
| Doctor John Davis.....do.                         |       |       |       |
| Doctor Joseph Davis.....do.                       |       |       |       |

##### Second Battalion of Rifle Regiment.

|                                       | Serg. | Drum. | Priv. |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Capt. Wm. Peebles.....pris.           |       |       |       |
| 1st Lieut. Matthew Scott.....do.      |       |       |       |
| 1st Lieut. Daniel Topham.....do.      |       |       |       |
| 2d Lieut. Jas. Carnegian.....missing. |       |       |       |
| 2d Lieut. David Sloan.....do.         |       |       |       |
| 3d Lieut. Charles Taylor.....killed.  |       |       |       |
| 3d Lieut. Joseph Brownlee.....pris.   |       |       |       |

##### Battalion of Musketry.

|  | Serg. | Drum. | Priv. |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Samuel J. Atlee, Esq., Colonel, prisoner.  |       |       |       |
| Caleb Parry, Esq., Lieut. Colonel, killed. |       |       |       |
| Capt. Francis Murray.....pris.             |       |       |       |
| Capt. Thomas Herbert.....do.               |       |       |       |
| Capt. John Nice.....do.                    |       |       |       |
| Capt. Joseph Howell.....do.                |       |       |       |
| Lieut. Walter Finney.....do.               |       |       |       |
| Lieut. Joseph Moore.....killed.            |       |       |       |
| Ensign W. Henderson.....pris.              |       |       |       |
| Ensign Alex. Huson.....do.                 |       |       |       |
| Ensign Michael App.....missing.            |       |       |       |
| Ensign Septimus Davis.....pris.            |       |       |       |

Prisoners: 3 Colonels, 6 Captains, 11 Lieutenants, 3 Ensigns, 2 Doctors.

Killed and Missing: 1 Colonel, 5 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 16 Sergeants, 6 Drum and Fife, 1 Volunteer, 222 Privates.

Total: 4 Colonels, 6 Captains, 16 Lieutenants, 4 Ensigns, 2 Doctors, 16 Sergeants, 6 Drum and Fife, 1 Volunteer, 222 Privates.

This account is taken from a muster of the three battalions before mentioned, and afterwards carefully compared with the accounts which came by a flag of truce from the enemy to his Excellency General *Washington*, the 5th instant, by

Ld. SPROGELL,

M. M. G. to the Pennsylvania Regulars.

Philadelphia, September 8, 1776.

#### A list of the Names of such Officers as are Prisoners with the Enemy, and have, by a flag of truce, sent for their Baggage and Cash.

##### PENNSYLVANIA Rifle Battalions.

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Colonel Miles,         | Lieutenant Broadhead,  |
| Colonel Piper,         | Lieutenant John Davis, |
| Captain Brown,         | Lieutenant Wert,       |
| Captain Peebles,       | Lieutenant Topham,     |
| Lieutenant Scott,      | Doctor John Davies,    |
| Lieutenant Gray,       | Doctor Joseph Davies,  |
| Lieutenant Spear,      | Colonel Lutz,          |
| Lieutenant Dymbach,    | Captain Craw,          |
| Lieutenant Macpherson, | Mr. David Duncan,      |
| Lieutenant Lee,        | Mr. Young.             |

##### PENNSYLVANIA Musket Battalion.

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Colonel Atlee,   | Lieutenant Finney, |
| Captain Murray,  | Ensign Davis,      |
| Captain Herbert, | Ensign Henderson,  |
| Captain Nice,    | Ensign Huson.      |
| Captain Howell,  |                    |